Releasing of Telephone Connections in Kerala During Eighth Plan Period

7191. SHRI RAMESH CHANNITHALA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the number of telephone connections likely to be released in Kerala during the Eighth Five Year Plan, district-wise?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): The draft Eighth plan proposals (1992-97) for the country including each district of Kereala envisage:

- Provision of telephone connection practically on demand in the Rural and the Tribal Areas.

- Waiting period for a new telephone connection not to exceed two years in larger telephone systems of 10, 000 lines or more.

It is estimated that to achieve the above objectives around 4 lakh new telephone connections will be required to be provided in Kerala during the 8th Plan Period. The Plans are approved only on annual basis and therefore district-wise break-up for the five year period is not available.

T.V. Converage In Orissa

7192. SHRI SIVAJI PATHAK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of Orissa population is covered by Doordarshan Transmitters and to what extent it is less than the national coverage;

(b) the steps the Government propose to take to overcome the gap;

(c) whether the Government of Orissa has urged the Union Government to set up more L.P.Ts. during the Eighth Plan period; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) The TV service is available to an estimated 77% populaion of Orissa aganist the national average of about 81%. There coverage figures are inclusive of the population in fringe areas where elevated antennae and boosters are required for obtainoing satisfactory reception.

(b) Besides the low power TV transmitters under implementatic at Puri and Makangiri, high power (10KW) trasnsmitters are also envisaged to be set-up at Baleshwar and Sambalpur (in replace of the existing transmitters), subject to availability of resources and inter-se priorities. With the commissioing of these transmitters, an estimated 83% population of Orissa is expected to be brought under TV coveragd inclusive of population in fringe areas.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A low power TV transmitter is already under implementation at malkangiri. The extisting 1 KW transmitter at Sambalpur is also envisaged to be replaced by a 10 KW transmitter subject to availability of resources and inter-se priorities.

[*Translation*]

Telephone Connections in Madhya Pradesh

7193. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone connections provided in different cities of Madhya Pradesh during 1991-92;

(b) the number of telephone exchanges modernised; and

(c) the targets fixed for 1992-93?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS(SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) 12695 telephone connections were provided in 14 different cities of Madhya Pradesh during 1991-92 (Upto 1.2.1992).

(b) 196 telephone exchanges have been modernised till 1.2.1992.

(c) During 1992-93, 240 telephone exchanges are targettted for modernisation.

Purchase of Equipments by DESU

7194. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY:
SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK:

Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newistem appeared in 'Jansatta', dated january 15, 1992 regarding the purchase of equipment by the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking and state:

(b) whether any investigating team has been constitued in this regard;

(c) the details of the investigations; and

(d) if no investigating team has been constituted, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). according to DESU, the Investigation Committee has not given any adverse report regrding performance of M/s. GEC of India Limited. M/s Andrew Yule (a Government firm) has also not been blacklisted as mentioned in the said news item. The orders for the supply of material /equipment have been placed with the approval of the competent authority.

[*English*]

Relief to Deep Sea Fishing

7195. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the deep sea fishing industry is at present facing difficulties and its exports have considerably decreased resulting in loss of foreign exhcange.;and

(b) if so, the effective steps being taken to help this ailing deep sea fishing industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Although deep sea fishing industry faced several problems in recent years, the export of mareneo products and earnining of foreign exchange has consistently incresed as indicated below: